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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,  
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

MFA urges US to meet promise on the PKK - Hurriyet  
Verheugen: Denktas responsible for delay in Cyprus solution  
- Milliyet  
New Greek FM: Cyprus talks timetable must not change -  
Milliyet  
TGS acknowledges collecting information on civilians - Aksam  
Kirkuk a powder keg - Turkiye  
PLO: Abu Abbas killed by the Americans - Sabah  
A/S William Burns: Sanctions for Syria on the Way - Aksam  
Fener Patriarchate Synod convenes - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

DeSoto admits UN expects disorder in Cyprus - Cumhuriyet  
Ankara criticizes Greek Cypriots for May 1 complacency -  
Cumhuriyet  
Weston: No deadlock in Cyprus talks - Zaman  
Constitution paves way for return of Shiites, Jews to Iraq -  
Zaman  
Kuwait joins countries opposing GME project - Yeni Safak  
Jordanian king to visit Ankara March 16-17 - Cumhuriyet  
South African, Serbian mercenaries in Baghdad - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Ambassador Neumann in Ankara: Ambassador Ronald Neumann from CPA and an accompanying Iraqi delegation briefed MFA officials on Wednesday in detail regarding developments in Iraq and economic issues. 'We have outlined fields for cooperation between Turkey and Iraq,' Neumann said, and he voiced hope for a bright economic future for the two countries. After meeting with Neumann, the MFA issued a statement urging the Bush Administration to fulfill its earlier pledges to remove the PKK threat from the region. 'Sabah' reports that the Turkish side was disappointed by the Iraq-Turkey economic talks. The paper claims that the U.S. rejected Turkish proposals to establish a civilian air link between Istanbul and Baghdad, end illegal taxation on the Iraqi side of the border, and open a second border crossing at Ovakoy for transit to Mosul.

Cyprus: Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas said the UN would deploy 7,000 peacekeepers on the island following an agreement between the two Cypriot sides. UN Special Cyprus envoy Alvaro DeSoto said the high number of peacekeepers was necessary to deal with possible disturbances that might arise after a settlement. US Special Cyprus Coordinator Tom Weston confirmed Turkey's demand for guarantees that an agreement will not be annulled in the future because it is not part of the EU Primary Law. Weston denied claims that the talks are at a standstill. 'TRNC' officials Mehmet Ali Talat and Serdar Denktas arrived in Ankara Wednesday evening for consultations with the MFA. 'TRNC Prime Minister' Talat said that give-and-take bargaining would begin soon, and noted that a news blackout could be declared in order to avoid public tension.

Military monitors 'dangerous' individuals, groups: Turkey's military is violating the law by drawing up a list of organizations and people it wants monitored as a potential threat to national security, papers report. The TGS has

confirmed that the Land Forces Command sent a directive through the jandarma to a number of subgovernors asking them to gather information on groups including artists, adherents of 'marginal' political or religious movements, supporters of the EU and US, Masons, Satanists, internet groups, and philosophy clubs. 'Advance planning is necessary to take efficient measures against problems that might arise,' the TGS said in a statement on Wednesday. Opposition party CHP has submitted a motion to the parliament claiming that the TGS action violated freedom of expression. Several columnists in today's papers criticize the military directive, arguing that domestic intelligence gathering is the responsibility of the police and other institutions. Cuneyt Ulsever argued in "Hurriyet" that 'the mentality of those in Turkey who are opposed to the EU has now been documented.' Ulsever wrote that the military 'sees everyone except themselves as potential enemies of the state.'

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq/TAL; Haiti

#### "Northern Iraq and Northern Cyprus"

Koray Duzgoren draws a parallel in the Islamist Yeni Safak (3/11): "There are significant parallels between the rights demanded by the Kurds population in the process of restructuring Iraq and the rights demanded for the northern Cypriots. Turkish Cypriots are looking to extend their sovereignty in northern Cyprus and want to see the central government kept weak and symbolic. The Turkish Cypriots are also seeking political equality and administrative equality, regardless of the demographic balance with the Greek Cypriots. . Let's look closer at the situation in northern Iraq: The recently signed TAL granted certain rights to the Iraqi Kurds which are similar to the rights Turkey is asking for the northern Cypriots. The Kurds are about to establish a state in the north by being autonomous on administrative and defense affairs. The only difference between the two concerns EU membership for Cyprus. Membership in the EU will eventually help to eliminate borders and administrative differences between the two Cypriot communities. . Turkey should not object to the rights for Kurds in Iraq because it is working for the same rights for Turkish Cypriots in the north of Cyprus. Kurds have been living under autonomy in this area for many years. The new constitution for Iraq is only putting this de facto reality into law. This means the Kurds will be 'officially' part of Turkey's neighborhood. The people of Iraq and the international community reached a consensus on the restructuring in Iraq, and Turkey should not stand against it. The right approach for Turkey is to face the reality and abandon its hostile policy. A new Iraq with a semi-independent Kurdistan is going to pave the way for a new era in the Middle East. Needless to say, the formation of a new Cyprus republic is an indispensable part of this process."

#### "Democracy For Everyone"

Sami Kohen opined in the mass appeal Milliyet (3/11): It seems that the US is making an effort to become the 'democracy savior' of the world. It is well known that the US has long tried to 'export' liberal political and economic systems as well as US cultural values to other countries. After September 11, however, the Bush administration began thinking about carrying 'order and democracy' to Asia (Afghanistan) and the Middle East (Iraq) as a kind of 'holy mission.' Washington is also engaged in an effort to impose its will in other parts of the world such as Haiti and South America (Venezuela). Developments in Haiti and Venezuela did not attract much attention in Turkey. In both countries, leaders were ousted from power as the result of public protests. There is a direct connection between the US global democracy campaign and the internal issues of these two countries. Washington has alternated between support for dictators like Duvalier and elected leaders like Aristide, but has shown no hesitation in eliminating either type depending on the circumstances. In 1991, Aristide was thrown out with the help of the CIA, and in 1994 he was returned to his position with Clinton's support. Last weekend, Bush closed his eyes as the democratically elected Aristide was toppled. Now Washington has sent troops to the island in an effort to help Haiti to establish a new administration. This time France is supporting the US! It wouldn't be a surprise if Hugo Chavez of Venezuela faces the same fate very soon. Chavez is a despot as well, and he is both pro-Castro and anti-American. Moreover, Venezuela supplies a big part of US oil needs. Therefore Venezuela also needs to be democratized."

EDELMAN